Madhya Pradesh, they are in touch with the Ministry of Defence to help them in the removal of toxic wastes from the site of Union Carbide India Limited.

Dismantling of Drug Price Control Order

194. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dismantle the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum against the said decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is likely to result in prices of drugs, including life-saving drugs, spiralling beyond the reach of the common man; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

Amount deposited by drug companies with NPPA

†195. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2775, given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2001 and state:

(a) The names of drug companies and the amount deposited by them with national Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) till 31st January, 2002, on account of over-charging for drugs; and

(b) by when the entire amount would be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Till the 31st January, 2002, an amount of Rs. 604.092 lakhs has been recovered by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) from fourteen companies on account of overcharging for drugs. In some cases, the companies have filed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

writ petitions against the notices issued by the NPPA in various High Courts in the country and in some cases, courts have passed interim orders restraining the NPPA from taking further action against the petitioner companies.

Manufacture and consumption of indigenous urea

196. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Andhra Pradesh in the manufacture of indigenous urea in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the consumption of urea in the State during the period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage indigenous production of urea in Andhra Pradesh and in the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The share of Andhra Pradesh in the production of indigenous urea was 6.76%, 6.55% and 6.08% during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively.

(b) The consumption of urea in the State during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 was 20.03 LMT, 20.15 LMT and 21.01 LMT respectively.

(c) To encourage investment in the fertilizer sector and to increase indigenous urea production in the country including Andhra Pradesh, the following facilities/concessions are available to the fertilizer industry at present:

(i) As per the Industrial Policy Resolution dated 24th July, 1991 no licence is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up/expand fertilizer plants anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance.

(ii) Deemed Export Benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of International Competitive Bidding.

(iii) Reasonable return of investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to existing urea capacity.